

Motorcycle Safety Work Group Meeting
November 3, 2005 Minutes

- I. Welcome
John Stokes, Chairman

- II. Introductions

Attending: John Stokes, GHSP; Darrell Jernigan, GHSP; Don Nail, GHSP; Catherine McLaurin, GHSP; Cliff Braam, DOT Highway Engineer; Tony Wyatt, DOT Highway Engineer; Dave Galloway, NCMSEP; Joe Carey, NCMEF; Capt. Briggs, NC SHP; Lt. Bob Stevens, Garner PD and GHSP Law Enforcement Liaison; Jim Everhart, Retreads, Abate; Jimmy Stallings, NC M/C Dealers Association; Charles Burris, rider.

Absent: Ethan Brinn, Raleigh Motor Officer

- III. John Stokes discussed what the group should accomplish during meeting and distributed outlines of his ideas for action.

- A.) Several priority areas exist and each needs a leader and specialty group.
B.) Members of the group can be members of the Motorcycle Safety Work Group as well as outsiders.

- IV. Topics needing special attention (Specialty Groups)

- A.) Data Reporting/Analysis

- John Stokes volunteered to lead.
- Discrepancies with Fatal Slip Reports
 - Darrell Jernigan and John Stokes mentioned that many fatalities are left out of these reports
 - Cliff Braam pointed out that fatal slip reports are rough reports and are not exhaustive
 - Discrepancies sometimes result from acronym designations (M/C vs. MC and M-C for motorcycle crash)

- B.) Speed and Aggressive Driving

- Discussion of John Stokes' outlined ideas. Possible solution: mandatory rider education classes for offenders?
 - Dave Galloway mentioned there may be someone in Concord working on this. Galloway will keep group updated.
- Tony Wyatt offered to lead this specialty group

C.) Alcohol Related Crashes

- John Stokes said his ideas for action to decrease the number of alcohol related crashes are similar to ideas to decrease speed and aggressive driving.
 - Two specialty groups (Speeding and Alcohol) may be able to work side-by-side.
- NHTSA's "Detecting DWI Motorcyclists" brochure shown and discussed.
- John Stokes: impoundment very effective means of getting message across to motorcycle riders.
- Possible solution: Lower the legal BAC for motorcycle riders?
 - John Stokes will look into this.
 - Darrell Jernigan asked if any states have a lower legal BAC for motorcycle riders now.
- Motorcycle safety literature
 - National Agenda for Motorcycle Safety: Result of Motorcycle Safety Foundation and NHTSA partnership
 - Darrell Jernigan asked about motorcycle safety publications for non-riders on committee.
 - Cliff Braam mentioned that the Executive Committee for Highway Safety (ECHS) will offer the Motorcycle Safety Work Group (MSWG) a Web page that could serve as an internal resource for sharing information
- Captain Briggs and Darrell Jernigan volunteered to lead alcohol specialty group.

D.) Rider Skill- Related Crashes

- Joe Carey talked about the NCMSEF working with the rider education program concerning promoting skill training
- John Stokes suggested age-related limitations on motorcycle licenses similar to GDL.
 - Darrell Jernigan mentioned this may be a problem for dealers but Jimmy Stallings said dealers are concerned about rider safety, too.
 - Demographics of bike buyers kept by dealers. Don Nail mentioned that dealers don't require possible buyers to have a motorcycle endorsement or license. Darrell Jernigan suggested implementing legislation to change this.
 - John Stokes pointed out the ease of obtaining a motorcycle permit.
 - Jim Everhart: permits can be renewed twice so riders can essentially drive without endorsement for 3 years. Only difference in permit and license is ability to carry passenger.
- Dave Galloway and Jim Everhart volunteered to lead this group.

E.) Safety Gear Related

- Discussion of ad circulating with a person half dressed in gear and half not.
- Helmet law needs clarification to encourage enforcement.
 - Jim Everhart mentioned that some officers wear Beanie helmets.

- Penalty for improper helmets discussed.
- Problem is that law enforcement officers are sometimes unaware of which helmet is legal.
- John Stokes and Don Nail discussed creating a new certified sticker for legal helmets. Sticker would have barcode and not be easily duplicated. Dave Galloway mentioned that this would be tough to enforce due to out-of-state riders.
- Darrell Jernigan suggested that officers should be encouraged to regulate helmets based on thickness.
- Don Nail volunteered to lead this specialty group
- Darrell Jernigan noted that dealers will be valuable for regulating safety equipment because any changes will cause their sales to increase.

F.) Highway Design related crashes

- John Stokes: even if road conditions cannot be improved can we change signage to be motorcycle rider-specific?
- Tony Wyatt pointed out that the DOT is conservative with signs because they often cause crashes and are the reason for injury in crashes.
- Tony Wyatt and Bob Stevens will lead this group.

G.) Motorcycle Licensing and Endorsements

- John Stokes said that people not endorsed or with permits are over-represented in fatality numbers.
- Suggestion: hold checkpoints at/around rallies.
- John Stokes will lead this group.

V. Open Discussion

A.) Rider education and law enforcement education

- Captain Briggs: all of the problems can be addressed this way but we lack the money.
- John Stokes: GHSP will help with funding.
- Captain Briggs said enforcing aggressive driving is difficult because violators are not afraid to run and this often leads to fatalities. Briggs said he would rather see an education-focused plan than an enforcement-focused plan.
- Dave Galloway agreed but noted that the challenge is getting to those who need education. Possible solution: make the license test more difficult?

B.) Three main focus areas

- National focus is DWI, speed and rider awareness.
- John Stokes said drivers need to be educated as well, not just riders.
- Cliff Braam said the ECHS would like the MSWG to focus on one main area to begin with.
- Focus of most importance: speed and aggressive driving. Majority agreed (show of hands).

- Joe Carey said need to do research to find out the cause of crashes before pinpointing one reason.
 - Captain Briggs thinks speed is cause of most
- C. Data Criteria for Cliff Braam to create query? All broken down by severity of crash (fatal or serious injury) in the last three years.
- Jimmy Stallings: number of vehicles involved, broken down by county.
 - John: 90% of drivers ride alone
 - Joe Carey: first harmful event in crash?
 - Skill level of rider
 - Lt. Stevens: age of driver
 - Tony Wyatt: behavioral causes
 - Captain Briggs: road classification
 - Cliff Braam: alcohol involvement (yes or no).
 - Size of motorcycle engine? Tony Wyatt will look into this using VIN numbers.
 - Dave Galloway: number of bikers traveling together
 - Don Nail: endorsement
 - John Stokes: In-state or out-of-state riders

VI. Next meeting possibilities: Tuesday, Jan. 10 or Thursday, Jan. 12 at 1 p.m.